



Administration for Children and Families

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation

Family Strengthening Scholars
HHS-2015-ACF-OPRE-PD-0977
Application Due Date: 06/08/2015

Family Strengthening Scholars
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**Department of Health & Human Services
Administration for Children and Families**

Program Office:	Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation
Funding Opportunity Title:	Family Strengthening Scholars
Announcement Type:	Initial
Funding Opportunity Number:	HHS-2015-ACF-OPRE-PD-0977
Primary CFDA Number:	93.647
Due Date For Letter of Intent:	05/08/2015
Due Date for Applications:	06/08/2015

Executive Summary

Notices:

- **Applicants are strongly encouraged to read the entire funding opportunity announcement (FOA) carefully and observe the application formatting requirements listed in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*. For more information on applying for grants, please visit "How to Apply for a Grant" on the ACF Grants Page at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto>.**

The Administration for Child and Families (ACF), Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation (OPRE) is soliciting applications for the Family Strengthening Research Scholars grants to support dissertation research on healthy marriage/responsible fatherhood (HM/RF) policy issues. These grants are meant to build capacity in the research field to focus on questions that have direct implications for the HM/RF field and to foster mentoring relationships between faculty members and high-quality doctoral students. These grants are intended to address issues of significance to inform policy decisions and solutions, particularly for underserved/understudied populations (e.g., low-income families, minority populations), utilize rigorous research methodology (both primary data collection and secondary data analysis), and help inform the development of future intervention research. For further information about OPRE, see <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/opre/>. Awards are dependent upon the availability of funds and the best interest of the federal government.

I. Program Description

Statutory Authority

The Family Strengthening Scholars grants is funded under the authority of the Social Security Act, Title XI, Section 1110, 42 U.S.C. 1310.

Description

Background

Family Strengthening Scholars grants are to support dissertation research to build empirical evidence in the family strengthening field and to strengthen the capacity of next generation researchers to conduct rigorous, policy-relevant research related to family strengthening programs. Examples of family strengthening related work are projects related to healthy marriage and/or responsible fatherhood. These

grants are also meant to help graduate students form active, collaborative partnerships with family strengthening practitioners. **These grants can support projects for either primary data collection efforts or secondary data analysis of datasets, including, but not limited to, Supporting Healthy Marriage, Building Strong Families, or Community Healthy Marriage Initiative datasets.**

These grants inform family strengthening programs funded under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program, as well as other family strengthening programs. TANF was first authorized in 1996 as part of Title IV-A of the Social Security Act and has four main purposes:

1. Provide assistance to needy families so that children may be cared for in their own homes or in the homes of relatives;
2. End the dependence of needy parents on government benefits by promoting job preparation, work, and marriage;
3. Prevent and reduce the incidence of out-of-wedlock pregnancies and establish annual numerical goals for preventing and reducing the incidence of these pregnancies; and
4. Encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families.

HM/RF programs were authorized in 2005 and again in 2010 as part of TANF. These programs were designed to offer marriage/relationship education, as well as fatherhood engagement services to low-income families. Current legislation for marriage/relationship education programs specifies eight healthy marriage activities (e.g., educating high school students on the value of marriage, relationship skills, and budgeting; providing pre-marital education and marriage skills training for engaged couples and for couples or individuals interested in marriage; and marriage skills training for married couples). Three types of fatherhood activities, including healthy marriage, responsible parenting, and economic stability, are noted in statute.

The overall mission of the family strengthening work is to improve the lives of children and parents and promote economic stability. The goal of these programs is to help participants build and sustain healthy relationships and marriages and to strengthen positive father-child interactions. Although much work has been done in the family strengthening arena related to HM/RF programs, more work is needed. Some specific areas where knowledge development is needed include:

- understanding effective ways to reach and retain low-income couples and fathers for these programs;
- effective measurement of relevant constructs in the context of low-income couples and families;
- understanding the mediators and moderators of family strengthening programs' impacts;
- understanding features of these programs related to impacts in relevant domains;
- effective curricula for low-income couples and fathers enrolled in family strengthening programs; and
- impacts of family strengthening programs on low-income couples and families.

The specific goals of the Family Strengthening Scholars grants are:

- To address issues of significance relevance to policy decisions related to low-income families in order to further the family strengthening field. These grants are meant to build capacity in the field and increase our understanding of understudied/underserved populations, as well as to further our understanding of effective family strengthening programming.
- To directly support graduate students' engagement in family strengthening research. Along with supporting the students' training and professional development as researchers, these grants contribute to the knowledge base about best approaches to delivering services to diverse, low-income families and their children. Students are expected to become autonomous researchers with specialized knowledge of family strengthening policy issues.
- To foster mentoring relationships between faculty members and graduate students who are pursuing doctoral-level research in the family strengthening field. Each student will work in partnership with a faculty mentor to foster the skills necessary to build a graduate student's career trajectory. Within

this mentoring relationship, scholars are expected to become independent researchers with the skills necessary to address family strengthening issues with a high level of technical quality.

- To form collaborative partnerships with family strengthening practitioners. These collaborative partnerships are to strengthen the student's dissertation work, as well as to help the student gain a greater understanding of family strengthening work. Additionally, these collaborative partnerships are meant to form a wider network of family strengthening colleagues to further the student's professional development.
- To encourage active communication, networking, and collaboration among graduate students, their mentors, and other senior family strengthening researchers. Students are encouraged to connect with senior researchers whose research interests overlap with their projects. In order to facilitate connections among researchers interested in family strengthening work, ACF/OPRE also supports the Fatherhood Research and Practice Network and a Center on Hispanic Children and Families. These projects aim to disseminate information about good marriage relationship education and fatherhood practices by building research and practice knowledge capacity, as well as increasing collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and capacity building among practitioners and researchers. In addition, OPRE sponsors various conferences and meetings, such as the Welfare Research Conference, where opportunities for collaboration, networking, and dissemination may be supported.

Research topics that are of particular interest for this year's Family Strengthening Scholars grants include, but are not limited to:

- Exploring mediators and moderators for program effects;
- Co-parenting;
- Father involvement;
- Complex families;
- Incarceration (including effects on relationships, relationships that are sustained throughout an incarceration, and issues with re-entry);
- The dynamics of relationships that terminate following a marriage/relationship education program;
- Outcomes from marriage/relationship programs, other than partnership status, such as family-wide outcomes, parent mental health, and child adjustment;
- Effects of mental health on couple and parent-child relationships, especially in the context of low-income families;
- Program features associated with program outcomes (program characteristics, staff characteristics, curricula, dosage);
- Studies that address measurement issues for family strengthening programs (e.g., how to measure father involvement with non-residential fathers);
- Studies that highlight how to enhance employment outcomes in family strengthening programs;
- Programming specific to teen parents;
- Relationship programming for youth in high schools; and
- Cost benefit analysis of family strengthening programs.

Transferability

Grants awarded as a result of this competition are not transferable to another graduate student.

Grants awarded as a result of this competition are not transferable to another institution without prior approval from ACF. In addition, grant funds may not be used to support project activities outside of the scope of the proposal of the awarded project without prior approval by ACF.

Sharing of Awards

The awards are for support of an individual graduate student researcher. Awards cannot be divided among two or more students (i.e., no co-investigators).

II. Federal Award Information

Funding Instrument Type:	Grant
Estimated Total Funding:	\$75,000
Expected Number of Awards:	3
Award Ceiling:	\$25,000 Per Budget Period
Award Floor:	\$10,000 Per Budget Period
Average Projected Award Amount:	\$25,000 Per Budget Period
Anticipated Project Start Date:	09/30/2015

Length of Project Periods:

12-month project and budget period

24-month project with two 12-month budget periods

Additional Information on Awards:

Awards made under this announcement are subject to the availability of federal funds.

Applications requesting an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period, as stated in this section, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period. Please see *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Note: For those programs that require matching or cost sharing, grantees will be held accountable for projected commitments of non-federal resources in their application budgets and budget justifications by budget period or by project period for fully funded awards, even if the projected commitment exceeds the required amount of match or cost share. **A grantee's failure to provide the required matching amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds.** See *Section III.2.* of this announcement for information on cost-sharing or matching requirements.

Applicants may apply for project periods up to 24 months. Applicants proposing 12-month project periods will be awarded up to \$25,000. Applicants proposing 24-month project periods will be awarded up to \$25,000 for the first 12-month budget period and up to \$25,000 for the second 12-month budget period.

For projects with a 24-month period, initial awards will be made for the first 12-month budget period and continuation awards for the second 12-month budget period will be subject to the availability of funds, satisfactory progress by the grantee, and a determination that continued funding would be in the interest of the federal government. Applicants proposing 24-month projects will receive instructions on how to submit non-competing continuation applications during the first budget period to request funds for the second budget period.

The 12-month or 24-month project period should be noted in Item 17 on the Standard Form (SF) 424 and the need for a 12-month or 24-month project period should be identified in the project narrative, budget and budget justification.

Indirect Costs

If the applicant's institution voluntarily relinquishes their indirect costs, or chooses to apply off-campus research rates, an authorized representative of the institution must submit a written acknowledgement that the indirect costs are being relinquished or a lower rate is being used. This voluntary decision to relinquish indirect costs, or to apply off-campus research rates, will not impact whether or not an application is

awarded.

Please see *Section IV.5 Funding Restrictions* for limitations on the use of federal funds awarded under this announcement.

III. Eligibility Information

III.1. Eligible Applicants

Eligibility is limited to ACCREDITED public, state-controlled, and private institutions of higher education acting on behalf of doctoral-level graduate students. The institution must be fully accredited by one of the regional accrediting commissions recognized by the Department of Education and the Council for Higher Education Accreditation. Competition is limited because accredited universities and institutions of higher education can provide the appropriate infrastructure to support doctoral-level student researchers.

Eligible accredited institutions of higher education also include:

(a) Faith-based institutions of higher education. (See ACF's Policy on Grants to Faith-Based Organizations at:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/acf-policy-on-grants-to-faith-based-organizations.>);

(b) Tribally Controlled Land Grant Colleges and Universities (TCUs) as cited in Section 532 of the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. § 301 note), any other institutions that qualify for funding under the Tribally Controlled Community College Assistance Act of 1978, (25 U.S.C. § 1801 et seq.), and Navajo Community College, authorized in the Navajo Community College Assistance Act of 1978, Pub.L. 95-471, Title II (25 U.S.C. § 640a);

(c) Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as defined in the amended version of the Higher Education Act of 1965, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1061(2), that are institutions established prior to 1964 whose principal mission was, and is, the education of Black Americans and that meet the definition of "Part B institution" in Section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended; and

(d) Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSIs) as defined in the amended version of the Higher Education Act of 1965, codified at 20 U.S.C. § 1101a(a)(5), and that are institutions who satisfy Section 502(a)(5) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended.

Additional Information on Eligibility

The faculty mentor who will serve as Principal Investigator must have a Ph.D. or equivalent in a relevant field and conduct research as a primary professional responsibility.

Eligible U.S. institutions may apply on behalf of their own university faculty who will serve as a mentor and Principal Investigator for an international non-U.S. citizen who is an advanced graduate student enrolled in their program.

Applicant Credentials and Supporting Documentation:

1. The Principal Investigator/faculty mentor must have a Ph.D. or equivalent in the respective field, conduct research as a primary professional responsibility, and have published or have been accepted for publication in major peer-reviewed research journals as a first or second author. Acceptable evidence includes a current curriculum vitae or biographical sketch.
2. Although the faculty mentor is listed as the Principal Investigator and must be committed to taking a central role in supporting the proposed dissertation research, this grant is intended for dissertation research for an individual student.
3. As the author of the grant proposal, the graduate student is expected to have an approved dissertation proposal by the due date for the grant application or no later than September 30, 2015.

See **Section IV.2. Project Description** for additional information regarding eligibility documentation.

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. See **Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors**.

III.2. Cost Sharing or Matching

Cost Sharing / Matching Requirement: Yes

Grantees are required to meet a non-federal share of the project cost, in accordance with **Title XI, Section 1110, of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C 1310**.

Cost sharing is required for these projects, in accordance with Title XI, Section 1110, of the Social Security Act, 42 U.S.C 1310. Applicants must provide a cost sharing amount in the Budget and Budget Justification. Cost sharing may be in cash or in-kind and may include unrecovered indirect costs in accordance with 45 CFR 75.306. The cost sharing amount will not affect the Award Ceiling amount as a disqualification factor. See **Section III.3 Other, Application Disqualification Factors**. Please also see **Section IV.2. Budget and Budget Justification, Commitment of Non-Federal Resources** and **Section V.1. Criteria, Budget and Budget Justification**.

Grantees will be held accountable for the projected commitment of non-federal resources in their application budget and budget justification, by budget period, or by project period for fully funded awards. **A grantee's failure to provide the projected cost share amount may result in the disallowance of federal funds.**

Non-federal resources will be evaluated under criteria found in **Section V.1.** of this announcement.

III.3. Other

DUNS Number and System for Award Management Eligibility Requirements (SAM.gov)

All applicants must have a DUNS Number ([http:// fedgov. dnb.com /webform](http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform)) and an active registration with the Central Contractor Registry (CCR) on the System for Award Management (SAM.gov, www.sam.gov).

Obtaining a DUNS Number may take 1 to 2 days.

All applicants are required to maintain an active SAM registration until the application process is complete. If a grant is awarded, registration at SAM.gov must be active throughout the life of the award.

Plan ahead. Allow up to 10 business days after you submit your registration for it to become active in SAM and an additional 24 hours before that registration information is available in other government systems, i.e. Grants.gov.

This action should allow you time to resolve any issues that may arise. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in your inability to submit your application through Grants.gov or prevent the award of a grant. Applicants should maintain documentation (with dates) of your efforts to register for, or renew a registration, at SAM. User Guides are available under the “Help” tab at <https://www.sam.gov>.

HHS requires all entities that plan to apply for, and ultimately receive, federal grant funds from any HHS Agency, or receive subawards directly from recipients of those grant funds to:

- Be registered in the SAM prior to submitting an application or plan;

- Maintain an active SAM registration with current information at all times during which it has an active award or an application or plan under consideration by an OPDIV; and
- Provide its active DUNS number in each application or plan it submits to the OPDIV.

ACF is prohibited from making an award until an applicant has complied with these requirements. At the time an award is ready to be made, if the intended recipient has not complied with these requirements, ACF:

- May determine that the applicant is not qualified to receive an award; and
- May use that determination as a basis for making an award to another applicant.

Application Disqualification Factors

Applications from individuals (including sole proprietorships) and foreign entities are not eligible and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Award Ceiling Disqualification

Applications that request an award amount that exceeds the *Award Ceiling* per budget period or per project period as stated in *Section II. Award Information*, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. This disqualification applies only to the *Award Ceiling* listed for first 12-month budget period for projects with multiple budget periods. If the project and budget period are the same, the disqualification applies to the *Award Ceiling* listed for the project period.

Required Electronic Application Submission

ACF requires electronic submission of applications at www.Grants.gov. **Paper applications received from applicants that have not been approved for an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.**

Applicants that do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents to the Internet may contact ACF for an exemption that will allow the applicant to submit applications in paper format. Information and the requirements for requesting an exemption from required electronic application submission are found in "Request an Exemption from Electronic Application Submission" in *Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission*.

Application Deadlines

The deadline for electronic application submission is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the Overview and in Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times. Electronic applications submitted to www.Grants.gov after 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, as indicated by a dated and time-stamped email from www.Grants.gov, will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. That is, applications submitted to www.Grants.gov, on or after 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period, and prior to the due date and time, which fail the www.Grants.gov validation check, will not be received at, or acknowledged by, ACF.

Each time an application is submitted via www.Grants.gov, the submission will generate a new date and time-stamp email notification. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a validated application, which is transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

The deadline for receipt of paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date listed in the Overview and in Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times. Paper applications received after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement. **Paper**

applications received from applicants that have not received approval of an exemption from required electronic submission will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Notification of Application Disqualification

Applications that are disqualified under these criteria are considered to be “non-responsive” and are excluded from the competitive review process. Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this funding opportunity announcement.

IV. Application and Submission Information

IV.1. Address to Request Application Package

OPRE Review Team

Family Strengthening Scholars Grant Review

c/o ICF International

9300 Lee Highway

Fairfax, VA 22031-6050

Phone: (202) 401-5436

Email: FSScholars@icfi.com

Electronic Application Submission:

The electronic application submission package is available in the FOA's listing at www.Grants.gov.

Applications in Paper Format:

For applicants that have received an exemption to submit applications in paper format, Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package available in the FOA's Grants.gov synopsis at www.Grants.gov. They are also available at [http:// www.grants.gov/web/ grants/forms/sf-424-family.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html). See *Section IV.2.Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* if applicants do not have an Internet connection or sufficient computing capacity to upload large documents (files) to www.Grants.gov.

Standard Forms that are compliant with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act (29 U.S.C. § 794d):

Available at the Grants.gov Forms Repository website at [http:// www.grants.gov/web/ grants/forms/sf-424-family.html](http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html).

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (TTY - Text Telephone or ASCII - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

Section IV.2. Content and Form of Application Submission

FORMATTING ACF APPLICATIONS

In FY 2013 ACF implemented a new application upload requirement. Each applicant applying electronically via www.grants.gov is required to upload only two electronic files, excluding Standard Forms and OMB-approved forms. No more than two files will be accepted for the review, and additional files will be removed. Standard Forms and OMB-approved forms will not be considered additional files.

FOR ALL APPLICATIONS:

Authorized Organizational Representative (AOR)

AOR is the designated representative of the applicant/recipient organization with authority to act on the organization's behalf in matters related to the award and administration of grants. In signing a grant application, this individual agrees that the organization will assume the obligations imposed by applicable Federal statutes and regulations and other terms and conditions of the award, including any assurances, if a grant is awarded.

AOR authorization is part of the registration process at www.Grants.gov, where the AOR will create a short profile and obtain a username and password from the Grants.gov Credential Provider. AORs will only be authorized for the DUNS number registered in the System for Awards Management (SAM).

Point of Contact

In addition to the AOR, a point of contact on matters involving the application must also be identified. The point of contact, known as the Project Director or Principal Investigator, should not be identical to the person identified as the AOR. The point of contact must be available to answer any questions pertaining to the application.

Application Checklist

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials.

Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* of this announcement.

Accepted Font Style

Applications must be in Times New Roman (TNR), 12-point font, except for footnotes, which may be TNR 10-point font.

Page Limitations

Applicants must observe the page limitation(s) listed under "PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:". Page limitation(s) do not include SFs and OMB-approved forms.

All applications must be double-spaced. An application that exceeds the cited page limitation for double-spaced pages in the Project Description file or the Appendices file will have the last extra pages removed and the removed pages will not be reviewed.

Application Elements Exempted from Double-Spacing Requirements

The following elements of the application submission are exempt from the double-spacing requirements and may be single-spaced: the table of contents, the one-page Project Summary/Abstract, required Assurances and Certifications, required SFs, required OMB-approved forms, resumes, logic models, proof of legal status/non-profit status, third-party agreements, letters of support, footnotes, tables, the line-item budget and/or the budget justification.

Adherence to FOA Formatting, Font, and Page Limitation Requirements

Applications that fail to adhere to ACF's FOA formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will be adjusted by the removal of page(s) from the application. Pages will be removed before the objective review. The removed page(s) will not be made available to reviewers.

In instances where formatting and font requirements are not adhered to, ACF uses a formula to determine the actual number of pages to be removed. The formula counts the number of characters an applicant uses when following the instructions and using 12-point TNR and compares the resulting number with that of

the submitted application. For example, an applicant using TNR, 11-point font, with 1-inch margins all around, and single-spacing, would have an additional 26 lines, or 1500 characters, which is equal to 4/5 of an additional page. Extra pages resulting from this formula will be removed and will not be reviewed.

Applications that have more than one scanned page of a document on a single page will have the page(s) removed from the review.

For applicants that submit paper applications, double-sided pages will be counted as two pages. When the maximum allowed number of pages is reached, excess pages will be removed and will not be made available to reviewers.

NOTE: Applicants failing to adhere to ACF's FOA formatting, font, and page limitation requirements will receive a letter from ACF notifying them that their application was amended. The letter will be sent after awards have been issued and will specify the reason(s) for removal of page(s).

Copies Required

Applicants must submit one complete copy of the application package electronically. Applicants submitting electronic applications need not provide additional copies of their application package.

Applicants submitting applications in paper format must submit one original and two copies of the complete application, including all Standard Forms and OMB-approved forms. The original copy must have original signatures.

Signatures

Applicants submitting electronic applications must follow the registration and application submission instructions provided at www.Grants.gov.

The original of a paper format application must include original signatures of the authorized representatives.

Accepted Application Format

With the exception of the required Standard Forms (SFs) and OMB-approved forms, all application materials must be formatted so that they are 8 ½" x 11" white paper with 1-inch margins all around.

If possible, applicants are encouraged to include page numbers for each page within the application.

ACF generally does not encourage submission of scanned documents as they tend to have reduced clarity and readability. If documents must be scanned, the font size on any scanned documents must be large enough so that it is readable. Documents must be scanned page-for-page, meaning that applicants may not scan more than one page of a document onto a single page.

PAGE LIMITATIONS AND CONTENT FOR ALL SUBMISSION FORMATS:

1. Page Limits and Numbering. Applicants must limit their *entire application (both the Project Narrative File and the Appendices File)* to **100 pages**. Pages submitted beyond the first 100 in the application will be removed prior to panel review.

2. Writing Style. The proposal should be consistent with the format and style guidelines of the current *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association*. The research should comply with the "Ethical Standards" detailed in the *Ethical Principles of Psychologists and Code of Conduct* (APA, 2002).

Organization of Application Submission:

Applicants are strongly advised to use headings and subheadings that correspond to the required information, the evaluation criteria, and required proposal sections. **Applicants are further advised to include all required forms and materials.** See additional instructions later in this section (under "The Project Description") for details on preparing the full project description.

1. Table of Contents

2. Project Summary/Abstract

3. Project Description/Narrative Statement

- (a) Objectives and Need for Assistance
- (b) Evaluation
- (c) Approach
- (d) Outcomes Expected and Implications of Research
- (e) Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information
- (f) Dissemination Plan
- (g) Project Timeline and Milestones
- (h) Budget Justification Narrative
- (i) References

4. Appendices, including:

- (a) Letter of Support from Faculty Mentor (see *Section IV.2 Project Description, Additional Eligibility Documentation*).
- (b) Curriculum Vitae for Student and Principal Investigator/Faculty Mentor (see *Section IV.2 Project Description, Additional Eligibility Documentation*).
- (c) Official Transcript Reflecting Completed Graduate Courses and Status in the Doctoral Program (see *Section IV.2 Project Description, Additional Eligibility Documentation*).
- (d) Documentation of approved doctoral dissertation proposal (see *Section IV.2 Project Description, Additional Eligibility Documentation*).
- (e) Letter of support of a collaborative relationship from a practitioner involved in family strengthening related work

ELECTRONIC APPLICATION SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically unless they have requested and received an exemption that will allow submission in paper format. See *Section IV.2. Application Submission Options* for information about requesting an exemption.

Electronic applications will only be accepted via www.Grants.gov. **ACF will not accept applications submitted via email or via facsimile.**

Each applicant is required to upload ONLY two electronic files, excluding SFs and OMB-approved forms.

File One: Must contain the entire Project Description, and the Budget and Budget Justification (including a line-item budget and a budget narrative).

File Two: Must contain all documents required in the Appendices.

Adherence to the Two-File Requirement

No more than two files will be accepted for the review. Applications with additional files will be amended and files will be removed from the review. SFs and OMB-approved forms will not be

considered additional files. **Please do not attach additional documents to the SF-424 at Question 14 and/or after Question 15. Instead of providing a separate response to Question 14, all applicants are required to submit the SF for Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL). In the SF-P/PSL, applicants may cite their primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites. Documents submitted as attachments to the SF-424 will be removed from the application and will not be reviewed.**

Application Upload Requirements

ACF strongly recommends that electronic applications be uploaded as Portable Document Files (PDFs). One file must contain the entire Project Description and Budget Justification; the other file must contain all documents required in the Appendices. Details on the content of each of the two files, as well as page limitations, are listed later in this section.

To adhere to the two-file requirement, applicants may need to convert and/or merge documents together using a PDF converter software. Many recent versions of Microsoft Office include the ability to save documents to the PDF format without need of additional software. Applicants using the Adobe Professional software suite will be able to merge these documents together. ACF recommends merging documents electronically rather than scanning multiple documents into one document manually, as scanned documents may have reduced clarity and readability.

However, ACF understands that all applicants may not have access to this software. Grants.gov offers a listing of several free PDF conversion programs. These programs can be found on Grants.gov by clicking on "Support" at the top menu bar and selecting "Technical Support". Under the "Technical Support" section select "Recommended Software." A link to "PDF Conversion Software" is available in the left-hand menu box. Free PDF software, available on this page, will allow users to convert and merge their PDF documents. As an example, ACF is providing written instructions for downloading and using one type of free software listed at Grants.gov at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/howto#chapter-7> under "How to Apply for a Grant/Submit an Application." [ACF does not endorse any of the software listed on Grants.gov, and applicants are not required to use a specific type of PDF conversion software to submit an application.]

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or with SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" document for complete guidance at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/systems_issue_policy_final.pdf under "How to Apply for a Grant/Submit an Application."

Required Standard Forms (SFs) and OMB-approved Forms

Standard Forms (SFs) and OMB-approved forms, such as the SF-424 application and budget forms and the SF-P/PSL (Project/Performance Site Location), are uploaded separately at Grants.gov. These forms are submitted separately from the Project Description and Appendices files. See *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* for the listing of required Standard Forms, OMB-approved forms, and required assurances and certifications.

Naming Application Submission Files

Carefully observe the file naming conventions required by www.Grants.gov. Limit file names to 50 characters (characters and spaces). Special characters that are allowed under Grants.gov's naming conventions, and are accommodated by ACF's systems, are listed in the instructions available in the Download Application Package at Grants.gov. Please also see <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/troubleshooting/restricting-special-characters.html>

Use only file formats supported by ACF It is critical that applicants submit applications using only the supported file formats listed here. While ACF supports all of the following file formats, **we strongly recommend that the two application submission files (Project Description and Appendices) are uploaded as PDF documents in order to comply with the two file upload limitation.** Documents in file

formats that are not supported by ACF will be removed from the application and will not be used in the competitive review. This may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make any awards based on an incomplete application.

ACF supports the following file formats:

- Adobe PDF – Portable Document Format (.pdf)
- Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Microsoft Excel (.xls or .xlsx)
- Microsoft PowerPoint (.ppt)
- Corel WordPerfect (.wpd)
- Image Formats (.JPG, .GIF, .TIFF, or .BMP only)

Do Not Encrypt or Password-Protect the Electronic Application Files

If ACF cannot access submitted electronic files because they are encrypted or password protected, the affected file will be removed from the application and will not be reviewed. This removal may make the application incomplete and ACF will not make awards based on an incomplete application.

FORMATTING FOR PAPER APPLICATION SUBMISSIONS:

The following requirements are only applicable to applications submitted in paper format. Applicants must receive an exemption from ACF in order for a paper format application to be accepted for review. See *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission* later in this section under *Application Submission Options* for more information.

Format Requirements for Paper Applications

All copies of mailed or hand-delivered paper applications must be submitted in a single package. If an applicant is submitting multiple applications under a single FOA, or multiple applications under separate FOAs, each application submission must be packaged separately. The package(s) must be clearly labeled for the specific FOA it addresses by FOA title and by Funding Opportunity Number (FON).

Because each application will be duplicated, do not use or include separate covers, binders, clips, tabs, plastic inserts, maps, brochures, or any other items that cannot be processed easily on a photocopy machine with an automatic feed. Do not bind, clip, staple, or fasten in any way separate sections of the application. Applicants are advised that the copies of the application submitted, not the original, will be reproduced by the federal government for review. **All application materials must be one-sided for duplication purposes.**

Addresses for Submission of Paper Applications

See *Section IV.6. Other Submission Requirements* for addresses for paper format application submissions.

Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications

Applicants seeking grant or cooperative agreement awards under this announcement must submit the listed Standard Forms (SFs), assurances, and certifications with the application. All required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available in the Application Package posted for this funding opportunity at www.grants.gov.

Other versions of required Standard Forms, assurances, and certifications are available at Grants.gov <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html>.

Forms / Assurances / Certifications	Submission Requirement	Notes / Description
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SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications. In the SF-P/PSL, applicants may cite their primary location and up to 29 additional performance sites. As a Standard Form (SF), this form is not included in the application's page limitation.
Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	Submission required of all applicants with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	Submission of the certification is required for all applicants.
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
SF-424 Key Contact Form	Submission is required for all applicants by the application due date.	Required for all applications.
DUNS Number (Universal Identifier) and Systems for Award Management (SAM) registration.	<p>A DUNS number is required of all applicants.</p> <p>To obtain a DUNS number, go to http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.</p> <p>Active registration at the Systems Award Management (SAM) website must be maintained throughout the application and project award period.</p> <p>SAM registration is available at http://www.sam.gov.</p>	<p>A DUNS number and SAM registration are eligibility requirements for all applicants.</p> <p>See <i>Section III.3. Other</i> for information on obtaining DUNS number at http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform and registration at SAM.gov at http://www.sam.gov.</p>
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non-Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	Submission is required for all applicants when applying for a non-construction project. Standard Forms must be used. Forms must be submitted by the application due date.	Required for all applications when applying for a non-construction project. By signing and submitting the SF-424B, applicants are making the appropriate certification of their compliance with all federal statutes relating to nondiscrimination.

Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification / IRB Certification / Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule)	Submission of the required information and forms is due with the application package by the due date listed in the <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> . If the information is not available at the time of application, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	Form is available at http:// www.hhs.gov/ohrp/ assurances/ forms/index.html . General information about the HHS Protection of Human Subjects regulations can be obtained at http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/ . Applicants may also contact OHRP by email (ohrp@csophs.dhhs.gov) or by phone (240-453-6900).
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it is not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.	If any funds have been paid or will be paid to any person for influencing or attempting to influence an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan, the applicant shall complete and submit the SF-LLL, "Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying," in accordance with its instructions.

Instructions for Use of Key Contact Form: Please include contact information for both the scholar and the faculty mentor.

The Project Description

Part I: The Project Description Overview

Purpose

The project description provides the majority of information by which an application is evaluated and ranked in competition with other applications for available assistance. It should address the activity for which federal funds are being requested, and should be consistent with the goals and objectives of the program as described in *Section I. Program Description*. Supporting documents should be included where they can present information clearly and succinctly. When appropriate, applicants should cite the evaluation criteria that are relevant to specific components of their project description. Awarding offices use this and other information in making their funding recommendations. It is important, therefore, that this information be included in the application in a manner that is clear and complete.

General Expectations and Instructions

Applicants should develop project descriptions that focus on outcomes and convey strategies for achieving intended performance. Project descriptions are evaluated on the basis of substance and measurable outcomes, not length. Extensive exhibits are not required. Cross-referencing should be used rather than repetition. Supporting information concerning activities that will not be directly funded by the grant or information that does not directly pertain to an integral part of the grant-funded activity should be placed

in an appendix.

Part II: General Instructions for Preparing a Full Project Description

Introduction

Applicants must prepare the project description statement in accordance with the following instructions while being aware of the specified evaluation criteria in *Section V.1. Criteria*. The text options give a broad overview of what the project description should include while the evaluation criteria identify the measures that will be used to evaluate applications.

Letter of Intent

Applicants are strongly encouraged to notify ACF of their intention to submit an application under this announcement. Please submit the letter of intent by the deadline date listed in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*.

The letter of intent should include the following information: number and title of this announcement; the name and address of the applicant organization; and/or Fiscal Agent (if known); and the name, phone number, fax number and email address of a contact person.

Letter of intent information will be used to determine the number of expert reviewers needed to evaluate applications. **The letter of intent is optional.** Failure to submit a letter of intent **will not** impact eligibility to submit an application and **will not** disqualify an application from competitive review.

OPRE Review Team
Family Strengthening Scholars
c/o ICF International
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031

Table of Contents

List the contents of the application including corresponding page numbers. The table of contents must be single spaced and will be counted against the total page limitations.

Project Summary/Abstract

Provide a summary of the application's project description. The summary must be clear, accurate, concise, and without reference to other parts of the application. The abstract must include a brief description of the proposed grant project including the needs to be addressed, the proposed services, and the population group(s) to be served.

Please place the following at the top of the abstract:

- Project Title
- Applicant Name
- Address
- Contact Phone Numbers (Voice, Fax)
- E-Mail Address
- Web Site Address, if applicable

The project abstract must be single-spaced, in Times New Roman 12-point font, and limited to one page in length. Additional pages will be removed and will not be reviewed.

Objectives And Need For Assistance

Clearly identify the physical, economic, social, financial, institutional, and/or other problem(s) requiring a solution. The need for assistance including the nature and scope of the problem must be demonstrated, and the principal and subordinate objectives of the project must be clearly and concisely stated; supporting documentation, such as letters of support and testimonials from concerned interests other than the applicant, may be included. Any relevant data based on planning studies should be included or referred to in the endnotes/footnotes. Incorporate demographic data and participant/beneficiary information, as well as data describing the needs of the target population and the proposed service area as needed. When appropriate, a literature review should be used to support the objectives and needs described in this section.

Outcomes Expected

Identify the outcomes to be derived from the project. Outcomes should relate to the overall goals of the project as described in *Section I. Program Description*. If research is part of the proposed work, outcomes must include hypothesized results and implications of the proposed research.

Approach

Outline a plan of action that describes the scope and detail of how the proposed project will be accomplished. Applicants must account for all functions or activities identified in the application. Describe any design or technological innovations, reductions in cost or time, or extraordinary social and/or community involvement in the project. Provide a list of organizations, cooperating entities, consultants, or other key individuals that will work on the project, along with a short description of the nature of their effort or contribution.

Cite potential obstacles and challenges to accomplishing project goals and explain strategies that will be used to address these challenges.

This section sets forth the technical proposal and describes how the project will be carried out. The following information should be included:

A. Background, Significance, and Objectives. Applicants should demonstrate their understanding of the relevant literature on critical issues and existing knowledge, describe their objective and demonstrate their understanding of the overall significance of the proposal. Applicants demonstrate how their proposal will address issues of significance related to the family strengthening programming, as well as how it addresses key gaps in the family strengthening field. Applicants are expected to connect their research proposal to critical public policy questions to help policy makers. Applicants should incorporate the following information:

1. A thorough literature review, justifying the proposed study and the outcomes of interest. The applicant should briefly discuss previous studies related to the proposed study and to identify gaps in the literature. The literature review should provide a sound justification for the proposed study. The applicant should cite relevant, current literature related to this topic using the most recent version of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association.
2. The project study's theoretical framework. The applicant should discuss the underlying theoretical framework of the study and how this relates to the project goals and research questions.
3. Specific research questions of interest. The applicant must list the research questions, as well as discuss how they relate to family strengthening program goals and critical issues in the family strengthening field.
4. Hypothesized results. Hypothesized results should be discussed. Findings from the current literature should be used to justify the hypothesized results.
5. Significance and implications of the research: The applicant must describe the proposed project's significance and implications for policymakers and program administrators and how the research project extends our current understanding of the problem/phenomena. The applicant should try to address the

following questions: How will the results apply to future program and policy decisions? How will results inform family strengthening program goals, such as increasing father involvement for non-residential fathers or increase positive couple/marital outcomes for low-income couples? How will the expected results apply to the populations/communities identified in your research questions?

B. Research Design and Methodology

1. Method and research design. The applicant should clearly define the study population, expected sample size, how the data will be collected, consent issues, and confidentiality of both the participants' responses and the data. It is recommended that anticipated numbers of participants be noted and that power analyses be completed for each research question, as appropriate. Citations supporting hypothesized effect sizes would be appropriate.
2. Measures. The applicant should specify the specific measures that will be used, and the psychometric properties of each measure.
3. Data analysis plan. The proposed data analytic plan should be described, and a brief justification for how the data analytic plan is appropriate for the research questions.

C. Management and collaborative partner plan. The applicant should outline and describe several plans related to how the applicant and faculty mentor will work together to execute the proposed project, and how the applicant will collaborate with family strengthening practitioners.

1. Management plan. The applicant should outline a strong management plan that describes a sound, workable plan of action for how the proposed project will be carried out. This section should describe how the faculty mentor and student will maintain quality control over the implementation and ongoing operations for the study. This plan should also outline how the faculty mentor will oversee and mentor the applicant as well as how often mentoring meetings will occur.

2. Collaborative partner plan. Applicants for Family Strengthening Scholars grants are most likely to succeed if they address issues of significance related to family strengthening services and programs; develop research projects with direct implications for policy decisions and solutions, particularly for underserved/understudied populations; and use the most rigorous research methodology to answer the selected research question(s). In order to do so, **applicants must consult with a family strengthening administrator/practitioner in the development of the proposal.** Examples of strong partnerships, included, but are not limited to working directly with a current or former Office of Family Assistance HM/RF grantee. For a list of HM/RF grantees please see https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ofa/healthy_marriage_and_responsible_fatherhood_grantees.pdf. Another example of a strong partnership is forming a collaborative relationship with a local community organization that does family strengthening work but is not a current OFA grantee.

Note: The collaborative partner should be someone other than the student's advisor; it should be an additional person to help with program consultation.

In the application, the relationship of the practitioner to the family strengthening field should be clearly described. Secondary analysis of relevant archived datasets, including the Supporting Health Marriage dataset, Building Strong Families Dataset, and the Community Healthy Marriage Initiative dataset, is allowed under this funding opportunity. However, the requirement to collaborate with a practitioner in the identification of research questions of relevance for practice remains a requirement.

This applicant should describe how family strengthening practitioners have been consulted, collaborated, or partnered with to help develop or refine research questions and project design. The applicant should also outline how the applicant plans to consult and/or collaborate with a family strengthening practitioner during various stages of project development. In particular, the applicant should describe how program partners will be consulted regarding initial project findings and the overall interpretation of findings. The applicant should also be explicit as to how this person is connected to the family strengthening field and how that will help further the applicant's understanding of the family strengthening field.

D. Dissemination Plan. In order to facilitate communication and dissemination between researchers, policymakers, and program administrators, grantees are required to participate in the following activities:

- a. **Conferences and Meetings.** Participation in two conferences is mandatory. The first required conference is the grantee meeting which is anticipated to occur during the late Fall, likely in Washington, DC. Additionally, participation in the Welfare Research and Education Conference (WREC) (historically held in May) in Washington, DC is required. This is a bi-annual conference. On the off years that WREC is not being held, grantees are required to attend an additional conference of their choice. The applicant's proposed budget should reflect funds to cover travel, lodging, and other costs for the scholar. Mentors are only required to attend the grantee conference. If funding for either the faculty member and/or the student will come from another source of travel funds, this should be clearly noted in the application.
- b. **Research Briefs.** Twice a year, the scholars are expected to prepare a 1-2 page brief describing the objectives, hypotheses, findings (when available), and the potential practice or policy implications of their research projects. The briefs will be posted on OPRE's website, and distributed at the grantee conference.
- c. **Archiving and Publishing.** The scholar must agree to archive his/her approved dissertation, reports, and other research products with the National Resource Center for Healthy Marriage and Families and/or the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse. Additionally, data may be required to be archived with the Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR).

Project Timeline and Milestones

Provide quantitative monthly or quarterly projections of the accomplishments to be achieved for each function, or activity, in such terms as the number of people to be served and the number of activities accomplished. Data may be organized and presented as project tasks and subtasks with their corresponding timelines during the project period. For example, each project task could be assigned to a row in the first column of a grid. Then, a unit of time could be assigned to each subsequent column, beginning with the first unit (i.e., week, month, quarter) of the project and ending with the last. Shading, arrows, or other markings could be used across the applicable grid boxes or cells, representing units of time, to indicate the approximate duration and/or frequency of each task and its start and end dates within the project period.

When accomplishments cannot be quantified by activity or function, list them in chronological order to show the schedule of accomplishments and their target dates.

Additional Eligibility Documentation

Applicants must provide the additional, required documentation, or required credentials, to support eligibility for an award, as described in *Section III. Eligibility Information* of this announcement:

1. The Principal Investigator/faculty mentor must have a Ph.D. or equivalent in the respective field, conduct research as a primary professional responsibility, and have published or have been accepted for publication in major peer-reviewed research journals as a first or second author.

Acceptable evidence includes a current curriculum vitae or biographical sketch. This document should be included in the Appendix.

2. As Principal Investigator, the graduate student's faculty mentor must submit a letter of support stating how he/she will regularly monitor the student's work. In addition, the letter must verify (a) the student's status in the doctoral program, (b) that the grant will be used to fund the student's dissertation research, and (c) that the student is within 2 years or less of completing his/her dissertation. This letter of support should be included in the Appendix.

3. As the author of the grant proposal, the graduate student is expected to have an approved dissertation proposal by the due date for the grant application. Evidence of this approval should be

submitted with the proposal. Sufficient proof would include a departmental form signed by committee members or another departmental administrator attesting to the fact that the student's dissertation proposal has been approved. Alternatively, a form or letter describing some other process that is equivalent to establishing this doctoral status would suffice. If the student does not have an approved dissertation proposal (or have this status) at the time of application, the application should include a statement of assurance that the proposed research plan will be approved prior to September 30, 2015 (when the funding for this program would begin). In sum, if ACF does approve the application for an award, the award will depend on written confirmation prior to an award that: (a) the dissertation proposal/plan has been officially approved by the university/department, and (b) if the proposal had not been approved at the time of the application, that the scope and approach of the research has not changed substantively from what was proposed in the application.

5. A letter describing the collaborative relationship from a practitioner involved in family strengthening related work should be included in the Appendix. This letter should clearly describe the work that the practitioner does and how it relates to the family strengthening field. If the practitioner is currently involved with an ACF family strengthening grantee, please indicate such in the letter. The letter should also indicate how the practitioner and graduate student will work together and specify stages of the project the practitioner expects to be involved in.

All supporting documentation, including curriculum vitae, letters of support, dissertation approval, and transcripts, should be included in the Appendices.

Organizational Capacity

Provide the following information on the applicant organization and, if applicable, on any cooperating partners:

- Curricula Vitae (CV);
- College transcripts for graduate student research fellows;

Protection of Sensitive and/or Confidential Information

If any confidential or sensitive information will be collected during the course of the project, whether from staff (e.g., background investigations) or project participants and/or project beneficiaries, provide a description of the methods that will be used to ensure that confidential and/or sensitive information is properly handled and safeguarded. Also provide a plan for the disposition of such information at the end of the project period.

Dissemination Plan

Applicants must propose a plan to disseminate reports, products, and/or grant project outputs so that project information is provided to key target audiences. Dissemination plans must include:

- Dissemination goals and objectives;
- Strategies to identify and engage with target audiences;
- Allocation of sufficient staff time and budget for dissemination purposes;
- A preliminary plan to evaluate the extent to which target audiences have received project information and have used it as intended.

The Project Budget and Budget Justification

All applicants are required to submit a project budget and budget justification with their application. The project budget is entered on the Budget Information Standard Form, either SF-424A or SF-424C, according to the directions provided with the SFs. The budget justification consists of a budget narrative and a line-item budget detail that includes detailed calculations for "object class categories" identified on the Budget Information Standard Form.

Project budget calculations must include estimation methods, quantities, unit costs, and other similar quantitative detail sufficient for the calculation to be duplicated. If matching or cost sharing is a requirement, applicants must include a detailed listing of any funding sources identified in Block 18 of the SF-424 (Application for Federal Assistance). See the table in *Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications* listing the appropriate budget forms to use in this application.

Special Note: *The Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015 (Pub.L. 113-235), enacted December 16, 2014, limits the salary amount that may be awarded and charged to ACF grants and cooperative agreements. Award funds issued under this announcement may not be used to pay the salary, or any percentage of salary, to an individual at a rate in excess of Executive Level II. The Executive Level II salary of the Federal Executive Pay scale is \$183,300. Please see <http://www.opm.gov/policy-data-oversight/pay-leave/salaries-wages/2015/executive-senior-level>. This amount reflects an individual's base salary **exclusive** of fringe benefits and any income that an individual may be permitted to earn outside of the duties to the applicant organization. This salary limitation also applies to subawards/subcontracts under a ACF grant or cooperative agreement.*

Provide a budget justification using the 424A and/or 424C, as applicable, for each year of the proposed project. Provide a budget justification, which includes a budget narrative and a line-item detail, for each year of the proposed project. The budget narrative should describe how the categorical costs are derived. Discuss the necessity, reasonableness, and allocation of the proposed costs.

The applicant should incorporate the following in the budget justification:

1. Expenses directly related to the student's dissertation research, which may include personnel costs/salary, travel, and other directly related expenses.
2. Expenses related to travel for the applicant to attend two required meetings. The first is the required grantee meeting, which is likely to occur in Washington, DC, and is likely to last 2 days. The second required meeting is the bi-annual WREC. The next WREC conference will be held in 2016, and it is likely to be held in Washington, DC. Applicants should plan to attend that conference for at least 2 days. On the off year, when the WREC conference is not being held, applicants should budget to attend another relevant conference of their choice.
3. If necessary, expenses to enable the mentor to participate in the required meetings should be included.
4. Costs and resources necessary to complete both the project and the dissemination plan. This includes (at a minimum) attendance at conferences and meetings, completion of research brief(s), archiving of research briefs, and other research products with the National Resource center for Healthy Marriage and Families and/or the National Responsible Fatherhood Clearinghouse website.
5. Documentation of how the cost-sharing/matching requirements will be achieved.

Funds must support research work that is the product of the graduate student. If the funded effort is part of a bigger project, it must be made clear what portion of the project was designed and will be completed by the graduate student.

General

Use the following guidelines for preparing the budget and budget justification. When a match or cost share is required, both federal and non-federal resources must be detailed and justified in the budget and budget narrative justification. "Federal resources" refers only to the ACF grant funds for which the applicant is applying. "Non-federal resources" are all other non-ACF federal and non-federal resources. It is suggested that budget amounts and computations be presented in a columnar format: first column, object class categories; second column, federal budget; next column(s), non-federal budget(s); and last

column, total budget. The budget justification should be in a narrative form.

Personnel

Description: Costs of employee salaries and wages.

Justification: Identify the project director or principal investigator, if known at the time of application. For each staff person provide: the title; time commitment to the project in months; time commitment to the project as a percentage or full-time equivalent; annual salary; grant salary; wage rates; etc. Do not include the costs of consultants, personnel costs of delegate agencies, or of specific project(s) and/or businesses to be financed by the applicant. Contractors and consultants should not be placed under this category.

Fringe Benefits

Description: Costs of employee fringe benefits unless treated as part of an approved indirect cost rate.

Justification: Provide a breakdown of the amounts and percentages that comprise fringe benefit costs such as health insurance, Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes, retirement insurance, and taxes.

Travel

Description: Costs of out-of-state or overnight project-related travel by employees of the applicant organization. Do not include in-state travel or consultant travel.

Justification: For each trip show the total number of traveler(s); travel destination; duration of trip; per diem; mileage allowances, if privately owned vehicles will be used to travel out of town; and other transportation costs and subsistence allowances. If appropriate for this project, travel costs for key project staff to attend ACF-sponsored workshops/conferences/grantee orientations should be detailed in the budget.

Equipment

Description: "Equipment" means an article of nonexpendable, tangible personal property having a useful life of more than one year per unit and an acquisition cost that equals or exceeds the lesser of: (a) the capitalization level established by the organization for the financial statement purposes, or (b) \$5,000. (Note: Acquisition cost means the net invoice unit price of an item of equipment, including the cost of any modifications, attachments, accessories, or auxiliary apparatus necessary to make it usable for the purpose for which it is acquired. Ancillary charges, such as taxes, duty, protective in-transit insurance, freight, and installation, shall be included in or excluded from acquisition cost in accordance with the applicant organization's regular written accounting practices.)

Justification: For each type of equipment requested applicants must provide a description of the equipment; the cost per unit; the number of units; the total cost; and a plan for use of the equipment in the project; as well as a plan for the use, and/or disposal of, the equipment after the project ends. An applicant organization that uses its own definition for equipment should provide a copy of its policy, or section of its policy, that includes the equipment definition.

Supplies

Description: Costs of all tangible personal property other than that included under the Equipment category. This includes office and other consumable supplies with a per-unit cost of less than \$5,000.

Justification: Specify general categories of supplies and their costs. Show computations and provide other information that supports the amount requested.

Other

Description: Enter the total of all other costs. Such costs, where applicable and appropriate, may include but are not limited to: consultant costs, local travel; insurance; food (when allowable); medical and dental costs (noncontractual); professional services costs (including audit charges); space and equipment rentals; printing and publication; computer use; training costs, such as tuition and stipends; staff development costs; and administrative costs.

Justification: Provide computations, a narrative description, and a justification for each cost under this category.

Indirect Charges

Description: Total amount of indirect costs. This category should be used only when the applicant currently has an indirect cost rate approved by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) or another cognizant federal agency.

Justification: An applicant that will charge indirect costs to the grant must enclose a copy of the current rate agreement. If the applicant organization is in the process of initially developing or renegotiating a rate, upon notification that an award will be made, it should immediately develop a tentative indirect cost rate proposal based on its most recently completed fiscal year, in accordance with the cognizant agency's guidelines for establishing indirect cost rates, and submit it to the cognizant agency. Applicants awaiting approval of their indirect cost proposals may also request indirect costs. When an indirect cost rate is requested, those costs included in the indirect cost pool should not be charged as direct costs to the grant. Also, if the applicant is requesting a rate that is less than what is allowed under the program, the authorized representative of the applicant organization must submit a signed acknowledgement that the applicant is accepting a lower rate than allowed.

Commitment of Non-Federal Resources

Description: Amounts of non-federal resources that will be used to support the project as identified in Block 18 of the SF-424. The match calculation applies to the total project cost (including match) and not just to the federal share.

Justification: If an applicant is relying on match from a third party, then a firm commitment of these resources (letter or other documentation) is required with the application. Detailed budget information must be provided for every funding source identified in Block 18 of the SF-424.

Note: Applicants are required to fully identify and document in their applications the specific costs or contributions they propose in order to meet a matching or cost-sharing requirement. Applicants are also required to provide documentation in their applications on the sources of funding or contribution(s) and, for in-kind contributions, a justification of how the stated valuation was determined.

Paperwork Reduction Disclaimer

As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3501-3521, the public reporting burden for the Project Description and Budget/Budget Justification is estimated to average 60 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and reviewing the collection information. The Project Description information collection is approved under OMB control number 0970-0139, which expires 10/31/2015. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Application Submission Options

Electronic Submission via www.Grants.gov

- Additional guidance on the submission of electronic applications can be found at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/applicants/apply-for-grants.html>.
- If applicants encounter any technical difficulties in using www.Grants.gov, contact the Grants.gov Contact Center at: 1-800-518-4726, or by email at support@grants.gov, to report the problem and obtain assistance. Hours of Operation: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The Grants.gov Contact Center is closed on federal holidays.
- Applicants should always retain Grants.gov Contact Center service ticket number(s) as they may be needed for future reference.
- **Contact with the Grants.gov Contact Center prior to the listed application due date and time does not ensure acceptance of an application. If difficulties are encountered, the Grants Management Officer listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* will determine whether the submission issues are due to Grants.gov system errors or user error.**

Application Validation at www.Grants.gov

After an application has been successfully submitted to www.Grants.gov, it still must pass a series of validation checks. After an application is submitted, Grants.gov generates a submission receipt via email and also sets the application status to "Received." This receipt verifies that the application has been successfully delivered to the Grants.gov system.

Next, Grants.gov verifies the submission is valid by ensuring it does not contain viruses, the opportunity is still open, and the applicant login and applicant DUNS number match. If the submission is valid, Grants.gov generates a submission validation receipt via email and sets the application status to "Validated."

If the application is not validated, the application status is set to "Rejected." The system sends a rejection email notification to the applicant and the applicant must re-submit the application package. See "What to Expect After Submitting" at www.Grants.gov for more information.

Each time an application is submitted, or resubmitted, via www.Grants.gov, the application will receive a new date and time stamp. Only those applications with on-time date and time stamps that result in a validated application, which are transmitted to ACF, will be acknowledged.

Applicants will be provided with an acknowledgement from Grants.gov that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, a series of checks and validations. Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged.

NOTE: The Grants.gov validation check can affect whether the application is accepted for review. If an application fails the Grants.gov validation check and is not resubmitted by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, it will not be transmitted to ACF and will be excluded from the review.

Similarly, if an applicant resubmits their application to Grants.gov by 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date, and the resubmitted application does not pass the validation check, it will not be transmitted to ACF and will be excluded from the review.

Systems Issues

For any systems issues experienced with Grants.gov or SAM.gov, please refer to ACF's "Policy for Applicants Experiencing Federal Systems Issues" document for complete guidance at https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/assets/systems_issue_policy_final.pdf.

Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission

ACF recognizes that some applicants may have limited or no Internet access, and/or limited computer capacity, which may prohibit them from uploading large files at www.Grants.gov. To accommodate such applicants, ACF offers an exemption from required electronic submission. The exemption will allow applicants to submit hard copy, paper applications by hand-delivery, applicant courier, overnight/express mail couriers, or by other representatives of the applicant.

To receive an exemption from required electronic application submission, applicants must submit a written request to ACF that must state that the applicant qualifies for the exemption for one of the two following reasons:

- Lack of Internet access or Internet connection, or
- Limited computer capacity that prevents the uploading of large documents (files) at www.Grants.gov.

Applicants may request and receive the exemption from required electronic application submission by either:

- Submitting an email request to electronicappexemption@acf.hhs.gov, or
- Sending a written request to the Office of Grants Management Contact listed in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* in this announcement.

Requests for exemption from required electronic application submission will be acknowledged with an approval or disapproval.

Requests that do not state one of the two listed reasons will not be approved.

An exemption is applicable to all applications submitted by the applicant organization during the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) in which it is received. Applicants need only request an exemption once in a FFY. Applicants must request a new exemption from required electronic submission for any succeeding FFY.

Please Note: electronicappexemption@acf.hhs.gov **may only be used to request an exemption from required electronic submission.** All other inquiries must be directed to the appropriate Agency Contact listed in *Section VII.* of this announcement. Queries or requests submitted to this email address for any reason other than a request for an exemption from electronic application submission will not be acknowledged or answered.

All exemption requests must include the following information:

- Funding Opportunity Announcement Title,
- Funding Opportunity Number (FON),
- The listed Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) number,
- Name of Applicant Organization and DUNS Number,
- AOR name and contact information,
- Name and contact information of person to be contacted on matters involving the application (i.e., the Point of Contact), and
- The reason for which the applicant is requesting an exemption from electronic application submission. The request for exemption must state one of the following two reasons: 1) lack of Internet access or Internet connection; or 2) lack of computer capacity that prevents uploading large documents (files) to the Internet.

Exemption requests must be received by ACF no later than two weeks before the application due date, that is, 14 calendar days prior to the application due date listed in the *Overview* and in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*. If the fourteenth calendar day falls on a weekend or federal holiday, the due date for receipt of an exemption request will move to the next federal business day that follows the weekend or federal holiday.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* of this announcement.

Paper Format Application Submission

An exemption is now required for the submission of paper applications. See the preceding section on "Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission."

Applicants with exemptions that submit their applications in paper format, by mail or delivery, must submit one original and two copies of the complete application with all attachments. The original and each of the two copies must include all required forms, certifications, assurances, and appendices, be signed by the AOR, and be unbound. The original copy of the application must have original signature(s). See *Section IV.6.* of this announcement for address information for paper format application submissions. Applications submitted in paper format must be received by 4:30 p.m, ET, on the due date.

Applicants may refer to *Section VIII. Other Information* for a checklist of application requirements that may be used in developing and organizing application materials. Details concerning acknowledgment of received applications are available in *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times* in this announcement.

IV.3. Submission Dates and Times

Due Date for Letter of Intent

Due Date for Letter of Intent: **05/08/2015**

Due Date for Applications: **06/08/2015**

Explanation of Due Dates

The due date for receipt of applications is listed in the *Overview* section and in this section. See *Section III.3. Application Disqualification Factors*.

Electronic Applications

The deadline for submission of electronic applications via www.Grants.gov is 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date. Electronic applications submitted at 12:00 a.m., ET, on the day after the due date will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Applicants are required to submit their applications electronically via www.Grants.gov unless they received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

ACF does not accommodate transmission of applications by email or facsimile.

Instructions for electronic submission via www.Grants.gov are available at: http://www.grants.gov/applicants/apply_for_grants.jsp.

Applications submitted to www.Grants.gov at any time during the open application period prior to the due date and time that fail the Grants.gov validation check will not be received at ACF. These applications will not be acknowledged.

Mailed Paper Format Applications

The deadline for mailed paper applications is 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date. Mailed paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic*

Application Submission.

Hand-Delivered Paper Format Applications

Applications that are hand-delivered by applicants, applicant couriers, by overnight/express mail couriers, or other representatives of the applicant must be received on, or before, the due date listed in the *Overview* and in this section. These applications must be delivered between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., ET, Monday through Friday (excluding federal holidays). Applications should be delivered to the address provided in *Section IV.6. Other Submission Requirements*.

Hand-delivered paper applications received after the due date and deadline time will be considered late and will be disqualified from competitive review and from funding under this announcement.

Hand-delivered paper format application submissions will be disqualified if the applicant organization has not received an exemption through the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

No appeals will be considered for applications classified as late under the following circumstances:

- Applications submitted electronically via www.Grants.gov are considered late when they are dated and time-stamped after the deadline of 11:59 p.m., ET, on the due date.
- Paper format applications received by mail or hand-delivery after 4:30 p.m., ET, on the due date will be classified as late and will be disqualified.
- Paper format applications received from applicant organizations that were not approved for an exemption from required electronic application submission under the process described in *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Submission* will be disqualified.

Extensions and/or Waiving Due Date and Receipt Time Requirements

ACF may extend an application due date and receipt time when circumstances make it impossible for applicants to submit their applications on time. These events include natural disasters (floods, hurricanes, tornados, etc.), or when there are widespread disruptions of electrical service, or mail service, or in other rare cases. The determination to extend or waive due date and/or receipt time requirements rests with the Grants Management Officer listed as the Office of Grants Management Contact in *Section VII. Agency Contacts*.

Acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov

Applicants will receive an initial email upon submission of their application to www.Grants.gov. This email will provide a **Grants.gov Tracking Number**. Applicants should refer to this tracking number in all communication with Grants.gov. The email will also provide a **date and time stamp**, which serves as the official record of application's submission. Receipt of this email does not indicate that the application is accepted or that it has passed the validation check.

Applicants will be provided with an acknowledgement from www.Grants.gov that the submitted application package has passed, or failed, a series of checks and validations. Applications that are submitted on time that fail the validation check will not be transmitted to ACF and will not be acknowledged.

See "What to Expect After Submitting" at www.Grants.gov for more information.

Acknowledgement from ACF of an electronic application's submission:

Applicants will be sent additional email(s) from ACF acknowledging that the application has been retrieved from www.Grants.gov by ACF. Receipt of these emails is not an indication that the application is accepted for competition.

Acknowledgement from ACF of receipt of a paper format application

ACF will not provide acknowledgement of receipt of hard copy application packages submitted via mail or courier services.

IV.4. Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs

This program is covered under Executive Order (E.O.) 12372, "Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs," and 45 CFR Part 100, "Intergovernmental Review of Department of Health and Human Services Programs and Activities." Under the Executive Order, States may design their own processes for reviewing and commenting on proposed Federal assistance under covered programs.

Applicants should go to the following URL for the official list of the jurisdictions that have elected to participate in E.O. 12372 http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_spoc/.

Applicants from participating jurisdictions should contact their SPOC, as soon as possible, to alert them of their prospective applications and to receive instructions on their jurisdiction's procedures. Applicants must submit all required application materials to the SPOC and indicate the date of submission on the Standard Form (SF) 424 at item 19.

Under 45 CFR 100.8(a)(2), a SPOC has 60 days from the application due date to comment on proposed new awards.

SPOC comments may be submitted directly to ACF to: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Grants Management, Division of Discretionary Grants, 370 L'Enfant Promenade SW., 6th Floor East, Washington, DC 20447.

Entities that meet the eligibility requirements of this announcement are still eligible to apply for a grant even if a State, Territory or Commonwealth, etc., does not have a SPOC or has chosen not to participate in the process. Applicants from non-participating jurisdictions need take no action with regard to E.O. 12372. Applications from Federally-recognized Indian Tribal governments are not subject to E.O. 12372.

IV.5. Funding Restrictions

Costs of organized fund raising, including financial campaigns, endowment drives, solicitation of gifts and bequests, and similar expenses incurred solely to raise capital or obtain contributions, are considered unallowable costs under grants or cooperative agreements awarded under this funding opportunity announcement.

Note: Costs incurred for grant application preparation are not considered allowable costs under an award and may not be included in the project budget or budget justification.

Grant awards will not allow reimbursement of pre-award costs.

Construction is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this grant award.

Purchase of real property is not an allowable activity or expenditure under this grant award.

Only costs directly related to the student's dissertation research, including required personnel costs (salary), travel, and other directly related expenses, are allowable under this grant.

IV.6. Other Submission Requirements

Submit paper applications to one of the following addresses. Also see *Section IV.2. Request an Exemption from Required Electronic Application Submission*.

Submission By Mail

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation
Family Strengthening Scholars Grant Review
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031-6050

Hand Delivery

Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation
Family Strengthening Scholars Grant Review
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031-6050

Electronic Submission

See *Section IV.2* for application requirements and for guidance when submitting applications electronically via <http://www.Grants.gov>.

For all submissions, see *Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times*.

V. Application Review Information

V.1. Criteria

Please note: Reviewers will not access, or review, any materials that are not part of the application documents. This includes information accessible on websites via hyperlinks that are referenced, or embedded, in the application. Though an application may include web links, or embedded hyperlinks, reviewers will not review this information as it is not considered to be part of the application documents. Nor will the information on websites be taken into consideration in scoring of evaluation criteria presented in this section. Reviewers will evaluate and score an application based on the documents that are presented in the application and **will not** refer to, or access, external links during the objective review.

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated using the criteria described in this section. The corresponding point values indicate the relative importance placed on each review criterion. Points will be allocated based on the extent to which the application proposal addresses each of the criteria listed. Applicants should address these criteria in their application materials, particularly in the project description and budget justification, as they are the basis upon which competing applications will be judged during the objective review. The required elements of the project description and budget justification may be found in *Section IV.2* of this announcement.

Objective and Evaluation

Maximum Points: 40

The extent to which:

1. The literature review (located in the *Objectives and Need for Assistance* section):
 - a. is current, comprehensive, clearly written and organized, and strongly supports the need for the study, delineates gaps in existing literature, and shows a clear understanding of the family strengthening population and current state of the field;

- b. contains reference citations that are complete and written consistently with the most current version of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (see information in *Section IV.2.*); and
- c. the theoretical framework is clearly and logically connected to the research goals, and/or research questions related to the family strengthening field.

2. The method and research design (located in the *Evaluation section*):

- a. is clearly described, sufficient for addressing the goals of the project, and appropriately links research issues, questions, variables, data sources, samples, and analyses;
- b. specifies the measures and their psychometric properties to be used for the planned research, and the measures are appropriate and sufficient for the questions of the study and the population to be studied;
- c. reflects adequate protection of human subjects, confidentiality of data, and consent procedures, as appropriate;
- d. demonstrates how the researcher will gain access to the necessary organizations, participants, and data sources needed for the project; and
- e. reflects sensitivity to technical, logistical, and ethical issues that may arise.

3. The data analytic plan (located in the *Evaluation section*):

- a. is adequately described and the proposed data analytic techniques are appropriate for the specific research question(s) under consideration, and for the types of data to be analyzed.
- b. includes a proposed sample size that is sufficient to answer the range of proposed research questions for the study, especially for longitudinal studies and studies involving a priori subgroups of interest.

Outcomes Expected and Implications

Maximum Points: 20

The extent to which:

1. The question(s) of interest and its links to the family program goals and mission are clearly demonstrated in the proposal.
2. The proposal reflects a solid understanding of critical issues, information needs, and research issues of the family strengthening field relevant to the populations, programs, and policies that are addressed by the proposed research.
3. The conceptual model, research questions, and hypotheses reflect the goals and mission of the family strengthening program and will contribute new knowledge to the field.
4. The Outcomes Expected section:
 - a. reflects a sound description of the anticipated results and benefits of the project, and
 - b. describes how the results will apply to current and/or future family strengthening programs and policy decisions.

Qualifications and Approach

Maximum Points: 20

The extent to which:

1. The student **and** faculty member possess the research expertise necessary to conduct the study as demonstrated in the application and information contained in their biographical sketches and/or curriculum vitae, including relevant background, experience, and training on related research or similar projects.
2. The Principal Investigator (faculty mentor) has earned a doctorate or equivalent in a relevant field and has first or second author publications in major peer reviewed research journals.
3. The projected timeline of accomplishments (located in the *Timeline and Milestones section*) provides a detailed outline or timeline identifying milestones for task completion and is feasible given the time frame specified.
4. The applicant outlines a strong *management plan* (located in the *Approach section*) for how the faculty mentor and student will maintain quality control over the implementation and ongoing operations for the study, which includes:
 - a. *collaborative partner plan* describing how they will maintain a productive relationship with a family strengthening practitioner partnership that may include continued involvement or periodic feedback as the research progresses. The planned project, whether it involves primary data collection or secondary data analyses, reflects sufficient consultation, collaboration, or partnership with a family strengthening practitioner to develop or refine the research questions and project design. The applicant has a letter of support from the anticipated collaborative partner that is strong and documents the practitioner plans to be involved in the project at various phases. The collaborative partnership described shows how this relationship will help educate and inform the student on family strengthening related work.
 - b. a *mentoring plan* describing a detailed and adequate plan for the faculty mentor's supervision and mentoring of the graduate student, including student's completion of the research and consultation/collaboration with program partners or policymakers.
5. Application verifies that the research proposal has been approved by a dissertation committee, as demonstrated via faculty mentor's letter of support and university/departmental forms indicating approval of dissertation proposal or other official documentation indicating the proposal's approved status. (See information in *Section III.3, Eligible Applicants, Other*)

Dissemination Plan

Maximum Points: 10

The extent to which the dissemination plan:

1. presents a detailed plan for disseminating and translating, as appropriate, the proposed research to researchers, policymakers, program partners, and/or practitioners. Workplans/timelines should reflect sufficient time and effort for dissemination activities. (See information in *Section I.B*)
2. proposes a plan that encompasses both research and policy/program oriented products.

Budget and Budget Justification

Maximum Points: 10

The extent to which the applicant's proposed project costs:

1. are reasonable and sufficient to accomplish the research objectives, design, and dissemination plan.
2. reflect expenses directly related to the student's dissertation research (which may include required personnel costs/salary, travel, and other directly related expenses).
3. include adequate funds for the student and (if necessary) for his/her mentor to participate in the required meetings (two meetings annually, per year of funding, for the student and one meeting

annually, per year of funding, for mentor; see *Section IV.2*).

4. are justified according to the needs and time frame for carrying out the proposed project.

5. meet the requirement for cost sharing (see *Sections III.2 and IV.2* for additional information on this requirement) and will contribute to the overall success of the project.

V.2. Review and Selection Process

No grant award will be made under this announcement on the basis of an incomplete application. No grant award will be made to an applicant or sub-recipient that does not have a DUNS number (www.dbn.com) and an active registration at SAM (www.sam.gov). See *Section III.3. Other*.

Initial ACF Screening

Each application will be screened to determine whether it meets any of the disqualification factors described in *Section III.3. Other, Application Disqualification Factors*.

Disqualified applications are considered to be “non-responsive” and are excluded from the competitive review process. Applicants will be notified of a disqualification determination by email or by USPS postal mail within 30 federal business days from the closing date of this funding opportunity announcement.

Objective Review and Results

Applications competing for financial assistance will be reviewed and evaluated by objective review panels using only the criteria described in *Section V.1. Criteria* of this announcement. Each panel is composed of experts with knowledge and experience in the area under review. Generally, review panels include three reviewers and one chairperson.

Results of the competitive objective review are taken into consideration by ACF in the selection of projects for funding; however, objective review scores and rankings are not binding. Scores and rankings are only one element used in the award decision-making process.

ACF may elect not to fund applicants with management or financial problems that would indicate an inability to successfully complete the proposed project. Applications may be funded in whole or in part. Successful applicants may be funded at an amount lower than that requested. ACF reserves the right to consider preferences to fund organizations serving emerging, unserved, or under-served populations, including those populations located in pockets of poverty. ACF will also consider the geographic distribution of federal funds in its award decisions.

The competitive review will be conducted by panels of federal and non-federal expert reviewers knowledgeable in the areas of family strengthening research and evaluation. Application review panels will assign a score to each application and identify its strengths and weaknesses in relation to the evaluation criteria.

It is unlikely that multiple applications with the same Principal Investigator (i.e., faculty mentor) will be funded if there are at least six applications from different faculty mentors/institutions that qualify for support.

OPRE will conduct an administrative review of the applications and results of the competitive review panels and make recommendations for funding to the Director of OPRE. The Assistant Secretary of the Administration for Children and Families is responsible for the final selection.

On the basis of the review of an application, ACF will: (a) approve the application for funding; or (b) disapprove the application.

Applications may be funded in whole or in part depending on: (1) the ranked order of applicants resulting from the competitive review; (2) staff review and consultations; (3) the funds available; and (4) the best interests of the Federal Government.

Approved but Unfunded Applications

Applications recommended for approval that were not funded under the competition because of the lack of available funds may be held over by ACF and reconsidered in a subsequent review cycle if a future competition under the program area is planned. These applications will be held over for a period of up to one year and will be re-competed for funding with all other competing applications in the next available review cycle. For those applications that have been deemed as approved but unfunded, notice will be given of such determination by postal mail.

V.3. Anticipated Announcement and Award Dates

Award decisions will be announced on or before September 30, 2015.

VI. Award Administration Information

VI.1. Award Notices

Successful applicants will be notified through the issuance of a Notice of Award (NoA) that sets forth the amount of funds granted, the terms and conditions of the grant, the effective date of the grant, the budget period for which initial support will be given, the non-federal share to be provided (if applicable), and the total project period for which support is contemplated. The NoA will be signed by the Grants Officer and transmitted via postal mail, email, or by GrantSolutions.gov or the Head Start Enterprise System (HSES), whichever is relevant. Following the finalization of funding decisions, organizations whose applications will not be funded will be notified by letter signed by the cognizant Program Office head. Any other correspondence that announces to a Principal Investigator, or a Project Director, that an application was selected is not an authorization to begin performance.

Project costs that are incurred prior to the receipt of the NoA are at the recipient's risk and may be reimbursed only to the extent that they are considered allowable as approved pre-award costs. Information on allowable pre-award costs and the time period under which they may be incurred is available in *Section IV.5. Funding Restrictions*.

VI.2. Administrative and National Policy Requirements

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to 45 CFR Part 75 - Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for HHS Awards. The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is available at <http://www.gpo.gov>.

An application funded with the release of federal funds through a grant award does not constitute, or imply, compliance with federal regulations. Funded organizations are responsible for ensuring that their activities comply with all applicable federal regulations.

Prohibition Against Profit

Grantees are subject to the limitations set forth in 45 CFR § 75.215, Special provisions for awards to commercial organizations as recipients (45 CFR § 75.215(b)_Prohibition against profit.), which states that, "...no HHS funds may be paid as profit to any recipient even if the recipient is a commercial organization. Profit is any amount in excess of allowable direct and indirect costs."

Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations

Grantees are also subject to the requirements of 45 CFR § 87.1(c), Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which says, "Organizations that receive direct financial assistance from the [Health and Human Services] Department under any Department program may not engage in inherently religious activities such as worship, religious instruction, or proselytization, as part of the programs or services funded with direct financial assistance from the Department." Therefore, organizations must take steps to completely separate the presentation of any program with religious content from the presentation of the Federally funded program by time or location *in such a way that it is clear that the two programs are separate and distinct*. If separating the two programs by time but presenting them in the same location, one program must *completely* end before the other program begins.

A faith-based organization receiving HHS funds retains its independence from federal, state, and local governments, and may continue to carry out its mission, including the definition, practice, and expression of its religious beliefs. For example, a faith-based organization may use space in its facilities to provide secular programs or services funded with federal funds without removing religious art, icons, scriptures, or other religious symbols. In addition, a faith-based organization that receives federal funds retains its authority over its internal governance, and it may retain religious terms in its organization's name, select its board members on a religious basis, and include religious references in its organization's mission statements and other governing documents in accordance with all program requirements, statutes, and other applicable requirements governing the conduct of HHS-funded activities.

Regulations pertaining to the Equal Treatment for Faith-Based Organizations, which includes the prohibition against federal funding of inherently religious activities, "Understanding the Regulations Related to the Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships Initiative" are available at <http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/about/regulations/>. Additional information, resources, and tools for faith-based organizations is available through The Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships website at <http://www.hhs.gov/partnerships/index.html> and at the <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ocs/resource/capacity-building-toolkits-for-faith-based-and-community-organizations>.

Award Term and Condition under the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000

Awards issued under this announcement are subject to the requirements of Section 106 (g) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000, as amended (22 U.S.C. § 7104). For the full text of the award term, go to <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/award-term-and-condition-for-trafficking-in-persons>. If you are unable to access this link, please contact the Grants Management Contact identified in *Section VII. Agency Contacts* of this announcement to obtain a copy of the term.

Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace

The Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988 (41 U.S.C. §§ 8101-8106) requires that all organizations receiving grants from any federal agency agree to maintain a drug-free workplace. By signing the application, the Authorizing Official agrees that the grantee will provide a drug-free workplace and will comply with the requirement to notify ACF if an employee is convicted of violating a criminal drug statute. Failure to comply with these requirements may be cause for debarment. Government-wide requirements for Drug-Free Workplace for Financial Assistance are found in 2 CFR Part 182; HHS implementing regulations are set forth in 2 CFR § 382.400. All recipients of ACF grant funds must comply with the requirements in Subpart B - Requirements for Recipients Other Than Individuals, 2 CFR § 382.225. The rule is available at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2001-title45-vol1/content-detail.html>.

Debarment and Suspension

HHS regulations published in 2 CFR Part 376 implement the governmentwide debarment and suspension system guidance (2 CFR Part 180) for HHS' non-procurement programs and activities. "Non-procurement transactions" include, among other things, grants, cooperative agreements, scholarships, fellowships, and loans. ACF implements the HHS Debarment and Suspension regulations as a term and condition of award. Grantees may decide the method and frequency by which this determination is made and may check the Excluded Parties List System (EPLS) located at <https://www.sam.gov/>, although checking the EPLS is not required. More information is available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-forms>.

Pro-Children Act

The Pro-Children Act of 2001, 20 U.S.C. §§ 7181 through 7184, imposes restrictions on smoking in facilities where federally funded children's services are provided. HHS grants are subject to these requirements only if they meet the Act's specified coverage. The Act specifies that smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of kindergarten, elementary, or secondary education or library services to children under the age of 18. In addition, smoking is prohibited in any indoor facility or portion of a facility (owned, leased, or contracted for) used for the routine or regular provision of federally funded health care, day care, or early childhood development, including Head Start services to children under the age of 18. The statutory prohibition also applies if such facilities are constructed, operated, or maintained with federal funds. The statute does not apply to children's services provided in private residences, facilities funded solely by Medicare or Medicaid funds, portions of facilities used for inpatient drug or alcohol treatment, or facilities where WIC coupons are redeemed. Failure to comply with the provisions of the law may result in the imposition of a civil monetary penalty of up to \$1,000 per violation and/or the imposition of an administrative compliance order on the responsible entity.

HHS Grants Policy Statement

The HHS Grants Policy Statement (HHS GPS) is the Department of Health and Human Services' single policy guide for discretionary grants and cooperative agreements. ACF grant awards are subject to the requirements of the HHS GPS, which covers basic grants processes, standard terms and conditions, and points of contact, as well as important agency-specific requirements. Appendices to the HHS GPS include a glossary of terms and a list of standard abbreviations for ease of reference. The general terms and conditions in the HHS GPS will apply as indicated unless there are statutory, regulatory, or award-specific requirements to the contrary that are specified in the Notice of Award (NOA). The HHS GPS is available at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/discretionary-competitive-grants>.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

Applications funded by federal grant programs are subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. § 552. Such applications are frequently requested under the FOIA, consistent with the FOIA's requirement to proactively disclose frequently requested materials at 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(2)(D). Each released application will receive appropriate redaction of specific information to protect personal privacy and competitively sensitive commercial information. Information on filing a FOIA request is available at <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/submit-a-foia-request>.

Award Term and Condition under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964

Recipients of federal financial assistance must not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin,

disability, age, and in some cases sex and religion. The HHS Office for Civil Rights provides guidance to grantees in complying with civil rights laws that prohibit discrimination.

www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/understanding/index.html.

HHS provides guidance to recipients of federal financial assistance on meeting the legal obligation to take reasonable steps to provide meaningful access to persons with limited English proficiency.

www.hhs.gov/ocr/civilrights/resources/laws/revisedlep.html. Recipients must ensure their contractors and sub-recipients also comply with federal civil rights laws.

Award Term and Condition for Unpaid Federal Tax Liability

Grantees are subject to the requirement contained in Section 744 of the “Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2015,” (Pub.L. 113-235, Title VII, General Provisions – Government-Wide), which says “None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enter into a contract, memorandum of understanding, or cooperative agreement with, make a grant to, or provide a loan or loan guarantee to, any corporation that has any unpaid Federal tax liability that has been assessed, for which all judicial and administrative remedies have been exhausted or have lapsed, and that is not being paid in a timely manner pursuant to an agreement with the authority responsible for collecting the tax liability, where the awarding agency is aware of the unpaid tax liability, unless a Federal agency has considered suspension or debarment of the corporation and has made a determination that this further action is not necessary to protect the interests of the Government.”

VI.3. Reporting

Grantees under this funding opportunity announcement will be required to submit performance progress and financial reports periodically throughout the project period. The frequency of required reporting is listed later in this section.

Performance Progress Reports (PPR)

Notice of Award (NoA) documents will inform grantees of the appropriate performance progress report form or format to use. Grantees should consult their Notice of Award documents to determine the appropriate performance progress report format required under their award. Performance progress reports are due 30 days after the end of the reporting period. Final program performance reports are due 90 days after the close of the project period.

For awards that implement the use of the ACF-OGM-SF-PPR, the form is available under "Reporting, Disclosures, and other Standard Forms" at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-forms>

Federal Financial Reports (FFR)

ACF grantees are required to use the SF-425 Federal Financial Report (FFR) for expenditure reporting. SF-425 reports will be due as frequently as is required in the terms and conditions of their award using due dates from reports to PMS. The SF-269 is no longer accepted for expenditure reports. If an SF-269 is submitted, the ACF will return it and require the recipient to complete the SF-425.

All expenditure reports will be due on one of the standard due dates by which cash reporting is required to be submitted to PMS or at the end of a calendar quarter as determined by ACF. As a result, a recipient that receives awards from more than one federal program may be subject to more than one approach, but will not be required to change its current means of submission or be subjected to more than eight standard due dates. **A final cumulative SF-425 is due 90 days after the close of the project period.**

For budget periods ending in the months of:

The FFR (SF425) is due to ACF on:

January 01 - March 31	April 30
April 01 - June 30	July 30
July 01 - September 30	October 30
October 01 - December 31	January 30

The SF-425 form in Adobe PDF and MS-Excel formats, along with instructions, is available at http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms.

For planning purposes, ACF reporting periods for awards made under this announcement are as follows:

Performance Progress Reports:	Semi-Annually
Financial Reports:	Semi-Annually

Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward and Executive Compensation

Awards issued as a result of this funding opportunity may be subject to the Transparency Act subaward and executive compensation reporting requirements of 2 CFR Part 170. See ACF's Award Term for Federal Financial Accountability and Transparency Act (FFATA) Subaward and Executive Compensation Reporting Requirement implementing this requirement and additional award applicability information at [https:// www.acf.hhs.gov/ grants/ discretionary-competitive-grants](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/discretionary-competitive-grants).

Tangible Property Report (SF-428)

All ACF grantees are required to submit the Tangible Personal Property Form (SF-428). The SF-428 is a standard form used to collect information related to tangible personal property: equipment with a unit cost of \$5,000 or more, and residual supplies with an aggregate fair market value exceeding \$5,000. The form consists of the cover sheet and three attachments to be used as required by the terms and conditions of the award: Annual Report; Final Report and a Disposition Request. A Supplemental Sheet, SF-428S, may be used to provide detailed individual item information. The form is available at [http:// www.whitehouse.gov/ omb/ grants_forms](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms).

Real Property Status Report (SF-429)

All ACF grantees are required to submit the Real Property Status Report SF-429, if applicable. The SF-429 is a standard report to be used by recipients of federal financial assistance to report real property status or to request agency instructions on real property that is provided as Government Furnished Property (GFP) or acquired (i.e., purchased, constructed, or renovated) in whole or in part under a Notice of Award. This form consists of the cover sheet and three attachments to be used as frequently as required in the terms and conditions of the award: General reporting (SF-429A, Attachment A), Request to Acquire, Improve or Furnish (SF-429B, Attachment B), or Disposition or Encumbrance Request (SF-429C, Attachment C). The forms are available at [http:// www.whitehouse.gov/ omb/ grants_forms](http://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/grants_forms).

VII. Agency Contacts

Program Office Contact

Aleta Meyer
Administration for Children and Families
Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation/KMD

Aerospace Building
901 D St SW
Washington, DC 20447
Phone: (202) 401-5436
Fax: (202) 205-3598
Email: Kathleen.Mccoy@acf.hhs.gov

Office of Grants Management Contact

Timothy Chappelle
Administration for Children and Families
Family Strengthening Scholars Grant Program
c/o ICF International
9300 Lee Highway
Fairfax, VA 22031-6050
Phone: (877) 350-4624
Fax: (703) 934-3740

Federal Relay Service:

Hearing-impaired and speech-impaired callers may contact the Federal Relay Service for assistance at 1-800-877-8339 (TTY - Text Telephone or ASCII - American Standard Code For Information Interchange).

VIII. Other Information

Reference Websites

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) <http://www.hhs.gov/>.

HHS Grants Forecast <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/hhsgrantsforecast/index.cfm>.

Administration for Children and Families (ACF) <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/>.

ACF Grants Homepage <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants>.

ACF Funding Opportunities <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/open/foa/>.

ACF "How to Apply for a Grant" <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants/how-to-apply-for-grants>.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance (CFDA) <https://www.cfda.gov/>.

For submission of a paper format application, all required Standard Forms (SF), assurances, and certifications are available on the ACF Grants-Forms page at <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/grants-forms>.

Standard grant forms are available at the [Grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) Forms Repository webpage at <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms/sf-424-family.html>.

For information regarding accessibility issues, visit the Grants.gov Accessibility Compliance Page at <http://www07.grants.gov/web/grants/support/technical-support/accessibility-compliance.html>.

Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>.

The *Federal Register* <https://www.federalregister.gov/>.

United States Code (U.S.C.) <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/>.

Application Checklist

Applicants may use the checklist below as a guide when preparing your application package.

What to Submit	Where Found	When to Submit
Letter of Intent	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Project Description</i> .	Submission is due by the Letter of Intent due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3</i> .
SF-LLL - Disclosure of Lobbying Activities	<p>"Disclosure Form to Report Lobbying" is referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications</i>.</p> <p>For electronic application submission, this form is available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Optional."</p> <p>The form is available in the electronic application kit at Grants.gov and at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html by using the link to "SF-424 Family."</p> <p>If applicable, submission of this form is required if any funds have been paid, or will be paid, to any person for influencing, or attempting to influence, an officer or employee of any agency, a member of Congress, an officer or</p>	<p>If submission of this form is applicable, it is due at the time of application. If it not available at the time of application, it may also be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>

	employee of Congress, or an employee of a member of Congress in connection with this commitment providing for the United States to insure or guarantee a loan.	
SF-424A - Budget Information - Non- Construction Programs and SF-424B - Assurances - Non-Construction Programs	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.</i></p> <p>For electronic application submission, these forms are available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Mandatory."</p> <p>Also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html by using the link to "SF-424 Family."</p> <p>These forms are required for applications under this FOA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projects that include only non-construction activities must submit the SF-424A and SF-424B, along with the SF-424 and SF-P/PSL. 	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.</i>
Certification Regarding Lobbying (Grants.gov Lobbying Form)	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.</i></p> <p>For electronic application submission, these forms are available on the FOA's Grants.gov page under the "Application Package" tab in the section entitled, "Mandatory."</p> <p>Available at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html by using the link to "SF-424</p>	Submission is due with the application package. If it is not submitted with the application package, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.

	Family."	
SF-424 Key Contact Form	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications</i>.</p> <p>For electronic application submission, this form is available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Optional."</p> <p>The form is also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html</p> <p>by using the link to "SF-424 Family."</p>	<p>Submission is due with the application by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i>.</p>
Protection of Human Subjects Assurance Identification / IRB Certification / Declaration of Exemption (Common Rule)	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Forms, Assurances, and Certifications</i>.</p> <p>Additional information and necessary forms are available at http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/assurances/forms/index.html.</p> <p>For electronic application submission, this form is available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Optional."</p> <p>The form is also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html</p> <p>by using the link to "SF-424 Family."</p>	<p>Submission of the required information and forms is due with the application package by the due date listed in the <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i>. If the information is not available at the time of application, it must be submitted prior to the award of a grant.</p>
SF-424 - Application for Federal Assistance	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications</i>.</p> <p>For electronic application submission, these forms are</p>	<p>Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i>.</p>

	<p>available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Mandatory."</p> <p>Also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html by using the link to "SF-424 Family."</p>	<p><i>times.</i></p> <p>Do not attach required application elements or additional pages to the SF-424 at Questions 14 or 15! See Section IV.2. Formatting ACF Applications.</p>
SF-Project/Performance Site Location(s) (SF-P/PSL)	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. Required Forms, Assurances, and Certifications.</i></p> <p>For electronic application submission, these forms are available on the FOA's Grants.gov "Download Opportunity Instructions and Application" page under "Download Application Package" in the section entitled, "Mandatory."</p> <p>Also available at http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/forms.html by using the link to "SF-424 Family."</p>	<p>Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.</i></p>
DUNS Number (Universal Identifier) and Systems for Award Management (SAM) registration.	<p>Referenced in <i>Section III.3. Other</i> in the announcement.</p> <p>To obtain a DUNS number, go to http://fedgov.dnb.com/webform.</p> <p>To register at SAM, go to http://www.sam.gov.</p>	<p>A DUNS number and registration at SAM.gov are required for all applicants.</p> <p>Active registration at SAM must be maintained throughout the application and project award period.</p>
Table of Contents	<p>Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description.</i></p>	<p>Submit with the application by the due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times.</i></p>

Project Summary/Abstract	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> . The Project Summary/Abstract is limited to one single-spaced page.	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
The Project Description	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> .	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Disemination Plan	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> .	Submit with the application by the due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Project Timeline and Milestones	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> .	Submit with the application by the due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
The Project Budget and Budget Justification	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification</i> of the announcement.	Submission is required in addition to submission of SF-424A or SF-424C. It must be submitted with the application package by the due date in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Organizational Capacity	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> .	Submission due by the application due date found in <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.3</i> .
Letter of Support from Faculty Member	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> .	Submit with the application by the due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .

Documentation of Approved Dissertation Proposal	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> .	Submit with the application by the due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Letter of Support of a Collaborative Relationship from a Practitioner	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Description</i> .	Submit with the application by the due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and in <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .
Commitment of Non-Federal Resources	Referenced in <i>Section IV.2. The Project Budget and Budget Justification</i> .	Submission is due by the application due date found in the <i>Overview</i> and <i>Section IV.3. Submission Dates and Times</i> .